

HAWAIIAN GAZETTE

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Entered at the Postoffice of Honolulu, H. T., Second-Class matter.
Semi-Weekly—Issued Tuesdays and Fridays.
Subscription Rates:
Per Month.....\$.35 Per Month, Foreign.....\$.35
Per Year.....\$ 3.00 Per Year, Foreign.....\$ 4.00
Payable Invariably in Advance.
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FRIDAY : : : : MARCH 27

CANE SUGAR WILL OUTLAST BEET SUGAR.

Students of sugar production believe that the natural laws of economic development favor cane rather than the beet as the future source of the world's supply of sugar. The limitation of tropical production depends solely on sanitation, and life in tropical lands no longer terrifies the white races. Yellow fever has been conquered. Blood parasites, hook worm, amoebic dysentery, malarial fevers, the sleeping sickness, Asiatic cholera, plague and typhus—scourges which were always to be reckoned with in the development of tropical plantations and the establishment of labor camps in the jungles have all yielded up their secrets to the man with the microscope and the test tube. Science has made it possible for the business man to use the enormous areas of virgin land—under the equatorial sun for the production of raw materials to feed and clothe mankind.

The cost of production is like water. It seeks its lowest level. The dawning of the supremacy of tropical agriculture, for the most economical production of gross masses of raw materials, is at hand.

Agricultural lands in densely congested temperate zone countries will be restricted more and more, as civilization advances, to the production of specialties and luxuries for the use of the city populations.

Production of raw products in mass as opposed to raw products de luxe will become the function of the tropical agriculturist. The cane growers of the tropics will wipe the beet sugar producers of Europe off the map whenever they apply science and common sense to the evolution of their own industry and put white sugars on the market.

The beet growers must, in the course of the years, substitute more profitable crops. The tropical planters cannot and should not be compelled to make the attempt because the logic of probabilities stands in their favor.

CHINA AND FOREIGNERS.

The present situation in China is ominously like that which preceded the Boxer uprising in 1900, says the Japan Advertiser of Tokio, a journal which keeps in close touch with conditions in the new Republic. As then, continues the Advertiser, foreign interests are slowly but surely securing some of the country's greatest industrial prizes, and as then the Chinese people are growing restive and resentful. The battle for concessions which was fought in 1898-99 is now being reproduced on much the same scale, with little indication that the concession hunters are any less selfish now than they were then. Again it is a case of hard bargains driven by foreigners, who have money, with a weak government which has no money and is in dire need. China is again being bullied, threatened and cajoled into granting concessions which promise great profit for those who receive them and with almost equal certainty promise disaster for the government which grants them.

The Belgians, more or less openly representing German and French interests, have secured concessions for the construction of railways which will transverse China from East to West and from North to South. The Standard Oil Company has secured the Shensi oil fields, which Dr. Sun Yat Sen refused them when he was in power at Nanking. By means of an additional loan Japanese interests have practically secured control of China's one big industrial enterprise, the Han Yeh Ping iron mine and steel works. The Bethlehem Company, it is said, has secured a concession for the construction of a steel plant and shipbuilding works on the China coast.

In the development of these concessions the foreigner may see the regeneration of China, which will gain additional prosperity through the construction of railways, the working of the oil fields, etc. But the point of view of the Chinese is entirely different. One need not expect him to consider the indirect benefits of such development, while one may be certain that he will look on the concessions as merely another surrender of his country to the foreigners. It would appear that Peking officials who owe their present positions to the downfall of the Manchus have forgotten that the very revolution which brought them to power was precipitated by public opposition to railway concessions such as are now being granted so freely. They will doubtless find that the Chinese public is as bitterly opposed to concessions by the Republic as it was by the Manchu government.

Meanwhile strong pressure is being brought to bear on China to compel the payment of foreign indemnity claims which came as an aftermath of the recent revolution. In the aggregate the claims are very high and some of the claimants seem not to have taken the precaution to give their claims a semblance of justice. For instance the French bank has brought a claim for almost Tls. 3,000,000 for indirect losses; this claim being made in spite of the fact that the French bank during the year of the revolution paid ample dividends and the annual report covering operations for that year stated that the bank had taken precautions to prevent losses. It is stated on good authority that the presentation of the French claim was accompanied by an intimation to China that unless these claims were paid in full as presented, France would decline to approve China's plan for a revision of the tariff schedule to make the present tariff rate of 5 per cent effective.

Already there are signs of popular discontent. The gentry of Shensi have protested against the grant of the oil concession to the Standard Oil Company, and it remains to be seen what kind of reception officials of that company will receive when they go to take possession of their riches. The practical surrender of the Han Yeh Ping property to Japanese interests has aroused a storm of protest which is by no means lessened because of the fact that the property is falling into the hands of a close neighbor. Rival railway interests are quarrelling more or less openly with each other over the right to construct certain lines, and apparently overlook the fact that the Chinese are opposed to construction by any of them. The unjust demands for indemnities have become well known to the Chinese public and the newspapers, which flourish in the Flowery Republic as never before, are making the most of the demands.

How much farther can this sort of thing go? How many more concessions can the Peking government grant; how many more demands can the foreign Powers make before a wave of anti-foreign sentiment will sweep the country? A large part of China is now ravaged by brigands. For months Yuan Shih-kai's efforts to suppress the notorious White Wolf have proven futile, and anti-foreign riots in any part of the country would meet with but little opposition. It is high time, unless there is to be a repetition of the Boxer outbreak, for some of the foreign Powers to modify their demands on China.

A German scientist claims to have discovered that the human digestive apparatus will extract as much nutriment from ten ounces of green vegetables prepared in a very finely powdered form, as from six pounds of fresh meat. He argues that grasses and clovers, if properly prepared, will at some future day enter into the human diet. Also, he holds that if a man can live on vegetable matter alone it is an extremely wasteful economic procedure to feed grass to an animal and then kill the animal and eat its flesh.

REGISTERING AND VOTING.

It is by no means too early for those eligible to vote in November and whose names do not as yet decorate the great register to be reminded of the fact that to vote is a duty and to register is a most essential preliminary. In registering and voting the Hawaiians and part-Hawaiians set their haole and oriental friends a splendid example. They are practically all registered and the percentage of those registered who vote is well over ninety-five. On the other hand, practically one-half the number of "others" eligible to vote do not even register. The exact figures for 1910, the year of the census, were:

Hawaiians eligible to vote, 9802; number registered, 9619. Others eligible to vote, 8528; number registered, 4823.

Since 1910 the number of whites and orientals eligible to vote has materially increased. Providing the increase from 1913 to 1914 is uniform with that between 1910 and 1912, the number which will be registered this November will be 6856, which is, according to the 1910 statistics of the Governor's report, less than three-quarters of the possible registrations.

The Hawaiian vote is decreasing rapidly, more rapidly than the part-Hawaiian vote is increasing. Between 1910 and 1912 the registration dropped off 184, the figures being: 1910, 9619; 1912, 9435. If the loss be uniform, the registrations of Hawaiian and part-Hawaiian voters this fall will be 9256.

It would seem up to the white and oriental voter to follow the excellent example of the Hawaiian and part-Hawaiian in registering. If the total registration were the possible registration, it would find the balance about equal between the Hawaiians and the "others."

SITUATION NOT UNPRECEDENTED.

The situation which Great Britain is facing as a result of the shooting of William S. Benton in Mexico, not only is not novel, but even almost unimportant compared to the events of 1859-62. A list of outrages committed during those three years before the British government joined France and Spain in the intervention which led to the seating of Maximilian of Austria upon the Mexican throne, has been brought forward in part as follows:

Doctor Duval, a British subject who was arrested in April, 1859, by the Clerical General Marquez while attending to wounded Juarists after their defeat at Tacubaya, was shot without trial.

A British subject named J. L. Innes was hunted through the mountains about Oaxaca with a price on his head.

British Vice Consul Bodmer was shot dead on his own balcony while trying to save a Mexican.

Mr. Beale was shot by bandits on his farm near Mexico City.

There were several other murders of British subjects of humbler positions.

A Mr. Burnard's factory was twice plundered and he was severely wounded by the robbers, so that he lost an arm; his wife went mad from the shock.

Financially, too, British subjects suffered greatly through these three years. Claims submitted by British subjects to their legation up to April 28, 1861, amounted to \$18,000,000 for such outrages as "forced supplies," "stoppage of factory," "plunder, death and mutilation," "imprisonment and sentence of death," and simple plunder.

In November, 1860, the Clerical General Miramon seized \$660,000 in silver which had been deposited at the British legation as the property of bondholders, and a few months later a Juarist general seized a convoy of some hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of silver bullion belonging to British subjects and on its way to the Coast. The Juarist government also suspended payment of the interest on its foreign loan, which was then mainly held in England.

In the face of all these outrages, Earl Russell and Lord Palm Erston refrained from intervention, despite the fact that it would have been a comparatively easy thing since the Juarists held the ports. They were, moreover, not faced with the necessity of policing the country after the intervention, since both France and Spain were ready to take up the work and France had definitely decided to obtain a permanent hold on Mexico. When France determined to move, Great Britain left the field to Napoleon III.

"DEATH FOR DOPE FIENDS."

With flaring headlines a sensational dispatch from Peking purports to give some account of steps being taken by Yuan to stamp out the dread opium scourge in China. At first sight, the casual reader would draw the conclusion that Yuan is some sort of Villa or Cipriano Castro, enforcing his ideas of government at the point of the sword with a cheerful disregard of the feelings of such as may disagree with him. Nothing could be further from the truth.

The fact is that Yuan Shih-kai is seriously determined opium smoking shall cease to be in China. Elaborate steps have been taken to continue the "empire days" propaganda against opium, to prohibit and suppress opium-growing and the use of the drug. In order to make it perfectly clear that he is in earnest, Yuan Shih-kai decreed that deliberate violation of the anti-opium laws should be punished by the extreme capital penalty. China, unfortunately, in earlier times was afflicted by too great familiarity with the public executioner. A certain not very considerable, but still hurtful, proportion of the Chinese populace has been taught through generations to regard all punishments, short of death, much as many of our own gangsters in the big cities regard all but the electric chair or hanging with the sangfroid of ignorance or depravity. Yuan Shih-kai and his representative council in Peking realize this. Without exception every political and social entity in China recognizes the opium evil and lauds President Yuan for his vigor in coping with it. And they laud him the more because he lives up to the letter of his decrees. From quite reliable sources, it seems that several executions have taken place in several widely distant parts of China—about four or five, to be precise. Will it not be worth while, if, through the decapitation of four or five incorrigibles, President Yuan Shih-kai can save China's 400,000,000 men, women and children from the awful curse of the opium habit; and, like another Moses, lead his people out of the worst possible sort of slavery?

GOOD MATERIAL TO CHOOSE FROM.

Governor Pinkham should be able to fill the vacancy at the head of the public utilities commission creditably, the material offering being of such calibre that the hardest thing about it will be to make a choice. So far as known the three active candidates in the field are Judge A. A. Wilder, R. R. Reidford and H. Gooding Field, any one of whom would fill the position with credit to the administration and benefit to the Territory. There may be other candidates, of course, but these are not publicly named.

Judge Wilder would bring to the position a fund of legal knowledge and much common sense, the latter being one of the prime requisites for the successful handling of the work of the commission, which is, after all, the making of facts public.

Mr. Reidford is of the type of men needed in public positions in Hawaii. He is not a politician, but he is a statistician, an investigator and a man of sober judgment.

Mr. Field has been much in the public eye since his arrival in the Territory some time ago. He is trained for just such work as the public utility commission must do to succeed. He was chief accountant with the Panama Canal Commission for three years. He is a post graduate of Columbia University, where he specialized in interstate commerce and corporation law, trusts and public service corporations. Professionally he has been retained by some large corporations to institute efficiency methods and systematic accounting.

From the three the Governor should be able to select a very satisfactory one.

REOPEN TANTALUS ROAD.

It is not too late for the supervisors to remedy an error in the proposed traffic ordinance by providing for the reopening of the Tantalus Road to automobiles as well as other vehicles. Ten years or more ago when automobiles were an innovation, when a machine on King street was looked upon as a novelty and when horses, and sometimes equally nervous bipeds began climbing trees at the approach of the strange-looking buzz wagons, there probably was some occasion for setting aside one thoroughfare in the city where it would be safe for the horse-back rider, and horse-drawn vehicles to travel.

Naturally with the automobile still a negligible quantity and with the view of doing the greatest good for the greatest number, the most picturesque driveway in Honolulu was closed to the gasoline propelled cars.

But since then times have changed, fifteen hundred or more automobiles and autoists have taken the place of the few hundred horses, and horse owners whose feelings were considered of so much importance a decade ago. Grass now covers the city's most popular driveway in spots.

It is open to the few vegetable peddlers who find it convenient to travel that way, but closed by law to the motor truck of the storekeeper, the runabout of the business man, and last, but of greater importance, closed to the tourists who come to Oahu with their touring cars. Honolulu, advertised the world over as the place where the visitor is made to feel at home, stands forth as a city where legal locks and chains are attached to everything the tourists come here to see.

The Tantalus Road is one of the finest driveways in the Territory, affording a view that could be found nowhere else in the world. Under present conditions the use and the enjoyment of this fine highway is denied to a large majority of the public.

The day when horses became frightened at automobiles is past. The danger which a thoughtful lawmaking body saw fit to guard against a dozen years ago is no longer a menace and the repeal of the law closing the Tantalus Road to any but horse-drawn vehicles should be started without further delay.

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION.

Judge A. A. Wilder, in a statement given to the press yesterday and published in The Advertiser this morning, clearly expresses the view this paper has always held that the Public Utilities Commission Act is a splendid measure and that properly carried out it can be made of much value to the people of this Territory. Publicity is the principal force Judge Wilder would use in securing results from this law, calling public attention to the faults which the commissioners find. It is not only the regulation of gas and electricity meters which the commission could be called on to pass upon, but, as Judge Wilder says to many other details of service of public corporations wherein the convenience of their patrons is concerned.

Proper publicity of the proceedings of the commissioners, their findings in investigations will go further toward bringing about a correction of minor evils, and greater ones, too, than has generally been accomplished after tiresome litigation by public utility boards elsewhere.

It is results which are wanted alike by the public utility corporations and the public. The commission need have no fear but if it performs its work well that the people will see to it that they are compensated, but as Judge Wilder says, if the act is not to be made productive of beneficial results it had better be repealed.

The present public utilities commission, it can be said, has showed an inclination to carry out the purpose of the act and was just getting down to doing good work when the resignation of Chairman Mott-Smith was announced. It is hoped that its impaired efficiency will soon be remedied by the appointment of some person who is as capable of working with the present commissioners as was Mr. Mott-Smith.

BANANAS.

Everybody in the United States ate forty bananas last year, if each got his share, but the vast majority of them never got a chance to try the best bananas, those grown in Hawaii. The three and a half billion bananas imported into the mainland United States came principally in foreign bottoms from foreign lands, forty-six million bunches of them, costing the importers fifteen and a half million dollars at the points of export and costing the ultimate consumers an estimated forty million dollars.

Forty years ago a banana was a foreign curiosity in the United States; today it is one of the commonest of fruits, eaten by practically everybody. The "ship" in the peels of the American banana supply would launch the ships of the world. If the bunches imported were laid out in a twenty-foot strip they would reach from New York to San Francisco. According to figures supplied by the Monthly Bulletin of the Pan-American Union, the average price paid by the importer to the grower per bunch is thirty cents, which yields from ten to fifteen cents profit per bunch for the grower. One hundred and fifty steamers are kept busy in the banana trade, plying between American ports and the South and Central American fruit belt.

Some day Hawaii will break into this trade on an adequate scale and there will be fast steamers bringing tourists to Hawaii and carrying back bananas and other tropical products.

INTER-ISLAND PROMPT TO ACT.

President J. A. Kennedy, of the Inter-Island Steam Navigation Company, is to be commended for the prompt action he took Wednesday night upon receipt of the first alarming reports of the blowing up and sinking of the steamer Maui, in dispatching vessels to the scene of the supposed disaster. The news had no sooner reached Honolulu than the Inter-Island company placed every facility at its command in the service of rendering aid to the members of the crew who might have been struggling for their lives in the water off Barber's Point.

The report, coming as it did direct from Fort Kamehameha, could not be discredited. There was no time to hesitate, no way of investigating the truth or falsity of the story, and, though the Inter-Island officials expressed confidence that no harm had befallen the staunch vessel, they would not take the risk of perhaps allowing their employees to perish when the company had it in its power to send relief. In this work the government naval department, under orders of Rear-Admiral C. B. T. Moore, rendered unselfish service.

Those in Honolulu who received the glad tidings from Kauai yesterday that the Maui and its crew were safe were no more happy than the Inter-Island officials and the members of the searching expeditions that the alarming report of Wednesday night was unfounded.

THE PASSING HOUR.

General Fred Funston is stationed on the Mexican border. Any time that President Wilson gets tired of waiting and decides to have something done, he can have it.—Kansas City Journal.

One item Mayor Joe attended to in the retrenchment program of the supervisors was his entertainment fund. It came through the fire unscathed. One luau to Hizzoner is worth more than any mile of road in the Territory and he will not be denied his gin or his poi even if the tax rate must be raised.

The Savannah News says that there are signs and portents and all sorts of unseasonable happenings to mark the advent of Triumphant Democracy. Straw hats bloomed in Washington, rose gardens burst into flower in New York last January, and the robins sang in New Jersey. Out in this part of the world the treasurer of the Territory acquired an eighty-five-cent hat. This is surely the age of symbolism, and these are the signs of the times.

SUPREME COURT GRANTS HEARING

Will Consider Granting Louisiana Planters Injunction on Cuban Sugar Preferential.

The Supreme Court of the United States will hear the Louisiana appeal against the Cuban preferential sugar duties April 6.

Willett & Gray predict some loss of sugar in Cuba because of the overprice of the cane. The market closed steadier for the week ending March 12. Their report of conditions is in part as follows:

Review for Week.

The week—Raws declined .06c. Refined declined .095c. Net cash quotations this date are: Centrifugals, 2.95c; Granulated, 3.822c. Receipts, 79,569 tons; Meltings, 60,000 tons. Total stock in Atlantic ports, 151,952 tons, against 132,383 tons last week, and 155,791 tons last year. Beet sugar quotations, f. o. b. Hamburg, 9s 0 3/4 per cwt. for 88 deg. analysis, equal to 3.48c for 96 deg. test Centrifugals at New York, duty paid. First Marks German Granulated f. o. b. Hamburg, 11s 0d, equal to 3.93c New York, duty paid.

Estimated amounts to the United States from Cuba and Porto Rico, 75,000 tons; Hawaii, 35,000 tons; Philippine Islands, 5000 tons. Total 115,000 tons, against total 96,000 tons last year.

Net Cash Price Reduced.—The lowest price named for refined here on this date is basis of Cane Fine Granulated, in barrels, at 3.822c net cash.

Statistics by Special Cables.—Cuba—The six principal ports:

Receipts, 79,000 tons; exports, 34,000; stock, 361,000 tons; against 250,000 tons last year.

Centrals grinding, 174, against 174 last week, 174 last year and 373 in 1912.

Entire Island receipts for week, 116,000 tons, against 114,000 tons last week, 98,000 tons last year and 94,000 tons in 1912.

Stocks in the United States and Cuba together of \$653,253 tons, against 582,257 tons last week and 477,205 tons last year, an increase of 176,048 tons from last year.

Europe—Stock in Europe, 3,740,000 tons, against 3,731,000 tons last year.

Visible Supply.—Total stock of Europe and America, 4,393,251 tons against 4,205,205 tons last year at the same un-even dates. The increase of stock is 188,046 tons against an increase of 184,361 tons last week. Total stocks and amounts together show a visible supply of 4,558,253 tons against 4,309,205 tons last year, or an increase of 249,048 tons.

Hawa.—A decline for the week of 1-16c per lb. is shown by the sales made, which were mostly at the basis of 115-16c c. & f. for 96 deg. Centrifugals, 2.95c per lb. duty paid.

Business included both Cuba and Porto Rico, and the quantity sold was quite a fair one, but holders continue to press for sale. Porto Rico, giving some little indication of further concessions to be made.

A cargo was taken for the United Kingdom at 9s. 3d., equal about 115-16c c. & f. New York, the lowest quotation yet made for that country.

Buyers Showing Interest.

At the close, however, the tone is steadier, buyers showing more interest, with some 20-30,000 bags Cuba and Porto Rico taken at the current quotation, 2.95c. Speculators paid 21-22c c. & f. for May shipment.

The weekly Cuba cable give the market the easier tone now noticeable. The week's receipts were again large, 116,000 tons for entire island, with 174 centrals working and weather fine. Mr. Himely gives 6,500 tons including 6500 tons to Europe, 65,000 tons to Atlantic ports and 700 tons to New Orleans.

The Atlantic port receipts were large, 79,569 tons. Meltings also increased by full week's work by refiners to catch up with orders, and stocks increased 19,560 tons.

European markets declined 1/4d for February and all months, closing at 9s 0 3/4 for March, 9s 1/4 for April and 9s 2 1/4 for May futures, with no indications of improvement, but rather the opposite to a small further extent.

The Louisiana planters have appealed from the opinion of the attorney general regarding duties on Cuba sugar to the Supreme Court of the United States, and the court is to give them a hearing on April 6th as to an injunction against collecting less than 1.348c per lb. duty, 96 deg. test, on Cuba sugar. In the meantime, all Cuba sugars are raising new customs at 1.0048c per lb. duty 96 deg. test.

Cuban Production.

We print Messrs. Guma-Mejer's Cuban production for February 28th, showing 916,352 tons against 782,608 tons last year, which continues to indicate a full crop up to the estimates, although some persons recently returned from the island found reasons in the full maturity of the cane before it can all be ground to fear some deteriorations by its delayed use.

Cuba Crop.—Mr. Himely reports under date of Havana, March 2, 1914: The five new Centrals which grind for the first time this year are now at work. They are: The "Manati Sugar Company" and "Central America" in Oriente province, "Central Ciego de Avila" and "Compania Azucarera Camaguey" in the province of the latter name and "Central Ulania" at Sagua.

Three of the older Centrals, however, have not started up yet. "Elena" in Matanzas province is still idle because of trouble with its cane farmers. "San Francisco de Asin," of Sagua, has sold its cane to a neighboring Central factory and will not grind this year, and, finally, "San Manuel," of the Cuban-American Sugar Company, which is quite close to the huge factories of "Chaparra" and "Delicias" belonging to the same company, will probably not be required to work this year.

Mabel: I'm drawn on the grand jury. "So am I, Gertrude." "Our responsibilities will be heavy." "I realize that. What shall we wear?"—Livingston Lance.